

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, and 15 remain in the application. Claims 1, 8-9, and 15 have been amended. Claims 2, 10, 12-14, and 16-17 have been cancelled.

In deference to the Examiner's requirement in the first paragraph on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, a copy of the corrected drawings is enclosed herewith.

In the third paragraph on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1 and 3-8 have been rejected as being anticipated by Golicz (US Pat. No. 5,284,335) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). In the sixth paragraph on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 9, 11 and 15 have been rejected as being anticipated by Reist (US Pat. No. 5,749,568) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejections have been noted and claims 1 and 9 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 11, lines 2-4 and page 10, lines 21-22 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

transport chain frames;

a gathering chain borne by said transport chain frames;

said gathering chain being operatively charged with the flat products by said feeder and transporting the flat products in a transport direction;

said feeder being detachably connected to said transport chain frames in a working position.

Claim 9 calls for, inter alia:

transport chain frames;

a gathering chain borne by said transport chain frames;

said gathering chain being operatively charged with the flat printed products by said feeders;

at least one of said feeders being detachably connected to said transport chain frames.

According to the invention of the instant application, a gathering chain (14), which is borne by the transport chain frames (16), is operatively charged with flat products by the feeders (10) and transports the flat products in a transport direction (A) (see Fig. 1 of the drawings of the instant application). The feeders (10) are detachably connected to the transport chain frames (16) to ensure the mobility of the

feeders (see page 11, lines 2-20 of the specification of the instant application).

These features are not disclosed by Golicz or Reist. Neither Golicz nor Reist discloses a gathering chain borne by transport chain frames and feeders detachably connected to the transport chain frames to be able to be adjusted in their working positions.

Clearly, neither Golicz nor Reist shows "transport chain frames; a gathering chain borne by said transport chain frames; said gathering chain being operatively charged with the flat products by said feeder and transporting the flat products in a transport direction; said feeder being detachably connected to said transport chain frames in a working position", as recited in claim 1, and "transport chain frames; a gathering chain borne by said transport chain frames; said gathering chain being operatively charged with the flat printed products by said feeders; at least one of said feeders being detachably connected to said transport chain frames", as recited in claim 9 of the instant application.

Claims 1 and 9 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately

dependent on claims 1 or 9, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3-9, 11, and 15 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

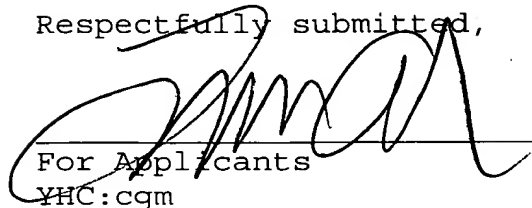
Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and

Applic. No.: 09/858,423
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Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Laurence A. Greenberg, is written over a horizontal line.

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For Applicants
YHC:cgm

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